

## **Charter Commission Minutes**

### **Charter Commission Meeting of July 10, 2017, 5:30 pm, Police Station Community Room**

Members Present: Andy Churchill, Mandi Jo Hanneke, Nick Grabbe, Diana Stein, Meg Gage, Tom Fricke

Members Absent: Julia Rueschemeyer, Irv Rhodes, Gerry Weiss

Collins Center: Tanya Stepasiuk

#### Agenda:

1. Call to order, approve agenda (5 minutes)
2. Public comment (15 minutes)
3. Review and edit master draft language (all articles and introduction) (3 hours, 10 minutes)
4. Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours prior to the meeting
5. Planning: the vote to approve draft charter; future meetings; publication; etc. (30 minutes)
6. Adjourn

Call to Order around 5:30 pm

1. Agenda approved
2. No public comment
3. The Commission began with Article 1 of the July 11<sup>th</sup> draft and went through the language of the entire draft making changes. Most changes were stylistic and non-substantive. Commission referred to comments on prior drafts received by Marilyn Contreas, Lauren Goldberg and Alisa Brewer.

All changes are reflected in the July 12<sup>th</sup> draft.

- Agreed to combine both general laws definitions into one.
  - Added back in section 2-6(c) that was previously removed, but changed applicability to “measures” not just “bylaws”
  - Changed wording in sections 2-6(d) to be more general and remove language that mirrored state law
  - Amended section 2-11 to have different time frames for department heads and multiple-member body appointments
  - Simplified section on annual review of Town Manager
  - Added back in section 5-4(d) (removed inadvertently)
  - Added new definition for “public forum” that will serve to replace the public meetings that the Commission added in lieu of public hearings.
  - Modified section 8-4(g) to clearly state that a majority approving of council’s action is sufficient to have the action effective
  - Changed the wording in the special act section to request names for the Town Council election be on a separate ballot (not the same ballot as the state offices)
4. Commission reviewed the preliminary report (letter, summary and organizational chart). Minor changes were made to the language, mostly based upon personal preferences.
  5. Thursday’s meeting will start with final review of charter for approval of changes made tonight, then final review of preliminary report for changes. After that, votes on the charter and

preliminary report will occur. Then a vote to send to the AG and DHCD and publish in the paper will happen.

Meeting adjourned around 9:45pm.

Submitted by Mandi Jo Hanneke